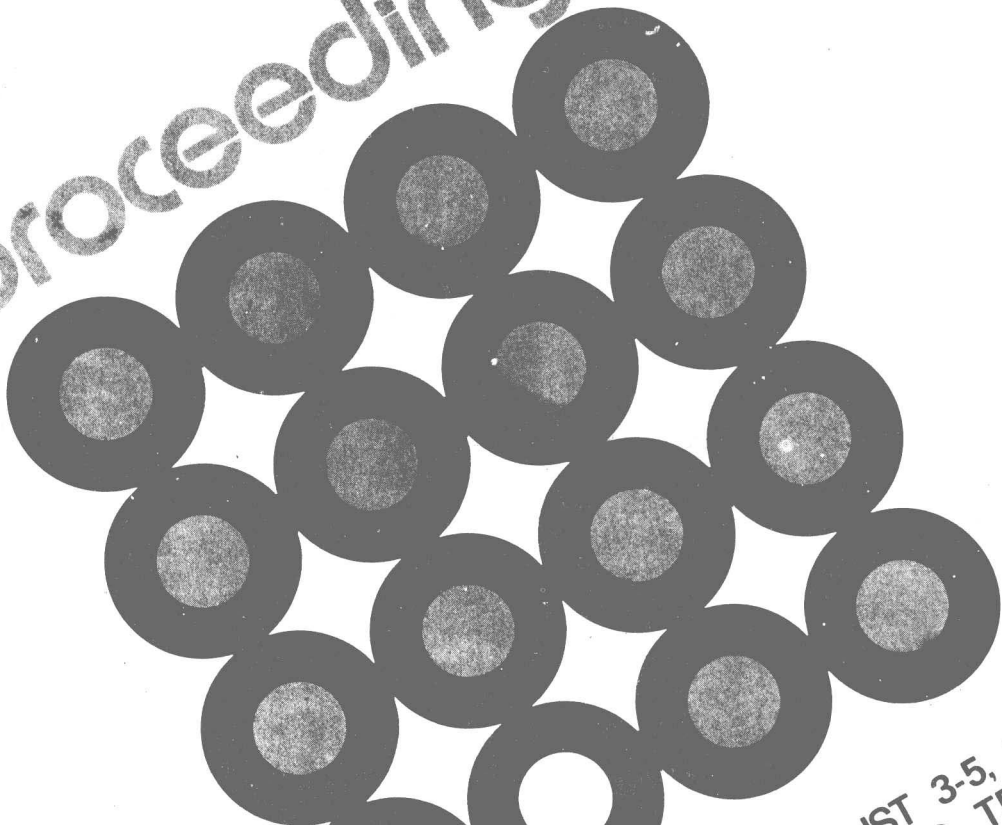


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# Conference Chairman's Message

It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I present this volume to the pattern recognition and image processing community. The size of the volume is indicative of the substantial research in progress, and the excellence of the presentations will attest to the high quality of the research being pursued. The broad participation from academic, industrial, and government personnel in the conference clearly shows the significance and utility of our research.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Conference Committee and the Program Committee for all the support they have provided. Everyone is grateful to Professor Azriel Rosenfeld for having arranged an excellent program. Also, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Professors D. Green and N. Badler, and Dr. T. Lucido for their cooperation in arranging this conference in conjunction with SIGGRAPH '81. Again, it is a pleasure to thank the IEEE Computer Society for sponsoring this conference and the IEEE Computer Society staff for their marvelous help in making various arrangements.

J. K. Aggarwal  
General Chairman

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# Conference on Pattern Recognition and Image Processing

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## Table of Contents

原书模糊

<b>SESSION A: CLASSIFICATION (L. N. Kanal, Chairperson)</b>	
A Committee Machine with Lower Committees .....	2
R. Takiyama	
Probabilistic Cluster Labeling of Imagery Data .....	5
T.C. Minter, R.K. Lenington, and C.B. Chittineni	
On the Extraction of Features From Slowly Wandering Patterns .....	11
C.B. Chittineni	
A Group-Linking Classifier .....	14
T. Gu and J.T. Tou	
Inference of a Class of Context-Free Programmed Grammars for Syntactic Pattern Recognition .....	18
J.W. Tai	
A Method for the Design of Binary Tree Classifiers .....	21
Q.-Y. Sbi	
An Application of Array Grammars to Clustering Analysis .....	27
P.S. Wang	
Recognition in Noisy Environments: System Structure and Strategies .....	31
B.V. Dasarathy	
Reconstruction of Finite Mixtures for Independent Features .....	34
Y. Litvin	
Pattern Class Representation Related to the Karhunen-Loeve Expansion .....	37
T. Van der Pyl	
<b>SESSION B: SHAPE I (T. Pavlidis, Chairperson)</b>	
Recursive Generation of Hierarchical Data Structures for Multidimensional Digital Images .....	42
M. Yau and S.N. Srihari	
Surface Reconstruction from Sparse Data .....	45
K.R. Sloan, Jr. and L.M. Hrechanyk	
Recognition of Spatial Point Patterns .....	49
D. Lavine, B.A. Lambird, and L.N. Kanal	
Three-Dimensional Segmentation Using the Gaussian Image and Spatial Information .....	54
C. Dane and R. Bajcsy	
Representation of a Region as a Forest of Quad Trees .....	57
L. Jones and S.S. Iyengar	
Normalized Quadrees with Respect to Translations .....	60
M. Li, W.I. Grosky, and R. Jain	
Detecting Object Orientation from Surface Normals .....	63
D.H. Ballard and D. Sabbah	
Neighbor Finding in Quadrees .....	68
H. Samet	
Approaches to Recursive Image Decomposition .....	75
N. Ahuja	

<b>SESSION C: TIME-VARYING IMAGERY I (N. Badler, Chairperson)</b>	
Motion Detection Using Hough Techniques .....	82
J. O'Rourke	
Reconstruction of Three-Dimensional Motions from Image Sequences .....	88
M. Asada and S. Tsuji	
Segmentation of Textured Dynamic Scenes .....	91
S.N. Jayaramamurthy and R. Jain	
Estimating Three-Dimensional Motion Parameters of a Rigid Planar Patch .....	94
R.Y. Tsai and T.S. Huang	
Computer Tracking of Moving Objects Using a Fourier-Domain Filter Based on a Model of the Human Visual System .....	98
C. Price, W. Snyder, and S. Rajala	
On the Derivation of 3D Rigid Point Configurations from Image Sequences .....	103
H.H. Nagel	
Determining the Instantaneous Direction of Motion from Optical Flow Generated by a Curvilinearly Moving Observer .....	109
K. Prazdny	
Determination of Displacement Vector Fields for General Camera Motions .....	115
R. Kories	
<b>SESSION D: APPLICATIONS I (J.M.S. Prewitt, Chairperson)</b>	
Image Processing for Visual Prosthesis .....	120
T. Pun and F. de Coulon	
Texture Analysis of Uniform Fields: A Prerequisite to Tissue Signature Identification Analysis of Nuclear Medicine Images .....	127
P.T. Cahill and R.J.R. Knowles	
Handwritten Kanji Character Recognition Using the Features Extracted from Multiple Standpoints .....	131
E. Yamamoto, N. Fujii, T. Fujita, C. Ito, and J. Tanahashi	
Identification and Tracking of Blurred Boundaries in Cluttered Pictures .....	137
K.R. Diller and J.M. Knox	
A Low Cost, Portable, Optical Character Reader for Blind .....	140
J. Conter, M. Valobra, and A. Bruel	
<b>SESSION E: SHAPE II (H. Freeman, Chairperson)</b>	
A Discrete Version of Green's Theorem .....	144
G.Y. Tang	
Parallel Thinning Operations for Digital Binary Images .....	150
Y.F. Tsao and K.S. Fu	
Digital and Cellular Convexity .....	156
C.E. Kim and J. Sklansky	
A Flexible Parallel Thinning Algorithm .....	162
T. Pavlidis	
Chord Distributions for Shape Matching .....	168
S.P. Smith and A.K. Jain	
Shape Analysis of Segmented Objects Using Moments .....	171
A.P. Reeves and A. Rostampour	
Convex Digital Solids .....	175
C.E. Kim and A. Rosenfeld	
<b>SESSION F: TIME-VARYING IMAGERY II (H.H. Nagel, Chairperson)</b>	
Tree Translation and Its Application to Traffic Image Sequence Analysis .....	184
T.I. Fan and K.S. Fu	
Occluding Contours in Dynamic Scenes .....	189
W.N. Martin and J.K. Aggarwal	
On Classifying Time-Varying Events .....	193
J.K. Tsotsos	
A Probabilistic Approach to Optical Target Tracking .....	200
W.M. Bowles	

Constraints on Optical Flow Computation .....	205
B.G. Schunck and B.K.P. Horn	
Motion and Image Differencing .....	211
S. Yalamanchili and J.K. Aggarwal	
<b>SESSION G: APPROXIMATION AND COMPRESSION (T.S. Huang, Chairperson)</b>	
Image Data Compression with the Laplacian Pyramid .....	218
E.H. Adelson and P.J. Burt	
A Two-Stage Method of Fitting Conic Arcs and Straight-Line Segments to Digitized Contours .....	224
Y.-Z. Liao	
An Adaptive Transform Image Data Compression Scheme Incorporating Pattern Recognition Procedures .....	230
R.E. Burge and J.K. Wu	
A Rate and Distortion Analysis for Grid Intersect Encoding of Line Drawings .....	237
D.L. Neuhoff and K.G. Castor	
An Adaptive DPCM Algorithm for Predicting Contours in NTSC Composite Video Signals .....	240
N.R. Cox	
Sampling Considerations for Multilevel Crossing Analysis .....	248
R.E. Woods and R.C. Gonzalez	
<b>SESSION H: SEGMENTATION (M.D. Levine, Chairperson)</b>	
The GLGS Image Representation and Its Application to Preliminary Segmentation and Pre-attentive Visual Search .....	256
H.C. Lee and K.S. Fu	
On the Statistical Image Segmentation Techniques .....	262
C.H. Chen	
A Statistical Approach to Image Segmentation .....	267
C. Skevington, G.M. Flachs, and B. Schaming	
An Iterative Algorithm for Multiple Threshold Detection .....	273
W.A. Barrett	
A Facet Model Region Growing Algorithm .....	279
T.C. Pong, L.G. Shapiro, and R.M. Haralick	
The Digital Edge .....	285
R.M. Haralick	
<b>SESSION I: HARDWARE AND TECHNIQUES (H.J. Siegel, Chairperson)</b>	
Description of Two Hardware Convolvers as a Part of a General Image Computer .....	294
P. Wambacq, L. Van Eycken, J. De Roo, A. Oosterlinck, and H. Van den Berghe	
Two Fast, Orientation Determining Algorithms, Well Suited for Hardware Implementation .....	297
L. Van Eycken, P. Wambacq, J. De Roo, A. Oosterlinck, and H. Van den Berghe	
A Hardware Implemented Universal Graphics Generator .....	300
J. De Roo, P. Wambacq, L. Van Eycken, A. Oosterlinck, and H. Van den Berghe	
Systolic Cellular Logic: Inexpensive Parallel Image Processors .....	306
S.L. Tanimoto	
"Bilevel" Processing of "Multilevel" Pictures .....	310
B. Zavidovique and G. Stamon	
Microstructure Representation Through Neighborhood Relations .....	314
B. Kruse and L.-E. Nordell	
Contextual Classification on PASM .....	320
H.J. Siegel and P.H. Swain	
Digital Image Processing Via an Array Processor .....	326
M.R. Portnoff, R.J. Sherwood, and R.E. Twogood	
<b>SESSION J: APPLICATIONS II (R.C. Bolles, Chairperson)</b>	
Signal Classification for Automatic Industrial Inspection .....	330
C.B. Chittineni	



Computer Recognition of Dust Particle Spatial Parameters .....	336
D.H. Williams, C.W. Yip, and C. McDonald	
A Rule-Based Approach to Electric Power Systems Security Assessment .....	340
Y.-H. Pao and S.-Y. Oh	
A Novel Time-Domain Pitch Extractor .....	343
E.H.J. Persoon	
The Lexicon of a Speech Understanding System .....	348
N. Bivi, R. De Mori, and G. Giordano	
Object Growing Algorithm for Cavity Measurement in Structural Materials .....	351
H.T. Tai, J.F. Mancuso, and C.C. Li	
Experiments Towards an On Line Measuring System for Paper-Pulp Fibres .....	355
T. Ericsson and A. Rudgård	
A Fast Technique for Segmentation and Recognition of Binary Patterns .....	360
G. Hirzinger and K. Landzettel	
<b>SESSION K: EXTRACTING CARTOGRAPHIC FEATURES FROM AERIAL IMAGERY</b>	
<b>(D. Bush, Chairperson)</b>	
Special Session on Experiments to Determine the Effectiveness of State-of-the-Art Pattern Recognition Techniques in Extracting Cartographic Features from Aerial Imagery .....	366
D.A. Bush	
Texture Discrimination Using Region Based Primitives .....	369
R. Lumia, R.M. Haralick, and L. Shapiro	
<b>SESSION L1: ARCHITECTURES (K.S. Fu, Chairperson)</b>	
Architectures for Neighborhood Processing .....	374
S.R. Sternberg	
A VLSI Pyramid Machine for Hierarchical Parallel Image Processing .....	381
C.R. Dyer	
PUMPS Architecture for Pattern Analysis and Image Database Management .....	387
F.A. Briggs, K. Hwang, K.-S. Fu, and M. Dubois	
ZMOB: Hardware from a User's Viewpoint .....	399
C. Rieger	
<b>SESSION L2: SPECIAL INVITED PAPER</b>	
Pattern Recognition and Digital Image Processing as Applied to Remote Sensing in India .....	410
B.L. Deekshatulu	
<b>SESSION M1: ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION (T.S. Huang, Chairperson)</b>	
Anisotropic Filtering Operations for Image Enhancement and Their Relation to the Visual System .....	420
H. Knutsson, R. Wilson, and G.H. Granlund	
Elimination of Seams From Photomosaics .....	426
S. Peleg	
A General Scheme for Signal Restoration with Application to Picture Processing .....	430
H. Maitre	
Wiener Estimator for Inversion of Linear Operators and Superresolution .....	433
A.J. Levy	
<b>SESSION M2: RELAXATION (L.S. Davis, Chairperson)</b>	
Probabilistic Relaxation for the Interpretation of Electrical Schematics .....	438
H. Bunke and G. Allermann	
Augmented Relaxation Labeling and Dynamic Relaxation Labeling .....	441
S.A. Kuschel and C.V. Page	
Relaxation Labeling Using Staged Updating .....	449
W.B. Thompson, K.M. Mutch, J.K. Kearney, and R.L. Madarasz	
Parallel Implementations of a Structural Analysis Algorithm .....	452
L.N. Kanal and V. Kumar	
<b>PANEL SESSION N1: RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR IMAGE PROCESSING</b>	
<b>(J.K. Aggarwal, Chairperson)</b>	

**PANEL SESSION N2: TRANSPORTABLE IMAGE-PROCESSING SOFTWARE****(A. Rosenfeld, Chairperson)**

Transportable Image-Processing Software .....	462
A. Rosenfeld	

**SESSION O: APPLICATIONS III (R. Jain, Chairperson)**

The Detection and Segmentation of Blobs in Infrared Images .....	464
--	-----

L.G. Minor and J. Sklansky

Locating Objects Under Different Conditions: An Example in Aerial Image

Understanding .....	470
---------------------	-----

P.G. Selfridge and K.R. Sloan, Jr.

Scene Classification of Landsat Multispectral Scanner Data by Means of the Adaptive

Learning Network Methodology .....	473
------------------------------------	-----

P. Horvath and F.J. Cook

Real-Time Infrared Image Processing .....	478
---	-----

T.R. Husson and A.M. Abdalla

Symbolic Pattern Matching for Target Acquisition .....	481
--	-----

P.M. Narendra, J.J. Grabau, and B.L. Westover

Automatic Multitemporal Segmentation for Diachronic Analysis of Remotely Sensed

Images .....	487
--------------	-----

R. Jeansoulin and W. Frei

A Relational Image Data Base System for Remote Sensing (Land DBMS) .....	491
--	-----

M. Nagata

Radar Target Classification .....	496
-----------------------------------	-----

R.J. Drazovich, F.X. Lanzinger, and T.O. Binford

**SESSION P1: TIME-VARYING IMAGERY III (W. Snyder, Chairperson)**

Occlusion Analysis in Time-Varying Imagery .....	504
--	-----

M.O. Ward and Y.T. Chien

Residual Recursive Displacement Estimation .....	508
--	-----

R.A. Jones and H. ur Rashid

Nonlinear Image Operators for Nulling 3-Space Translations .....	512
--	-----

M.H. Brill

Visual Interpretation of the Motion of Objects in Space .....	516
---	-----

J.A. Webb and J.K. Aggarwal

**PANEL SESSION P2: MAP DATA PROCESSING (H. Freeman, Chairperson)****SESSION Q: MATCHING (W.B. Thompson, Chairperson)**

Image Registration Using Generalized Hough Transforms .....	526
---	-----

S. Yam and L.S. Davis

Matching Three-Dimensional Models .....	534
---	-----

L.G. Shapiro, J.D. Moriarty, R.M. Haralick, and P.G. Mulgaonkar

Image Recognition by Matching Relational Structures .....	542
---	-----

J.K. Cheng and T.S. Huang

Efficient Local Searching in Sparse Images .....	548
--	-----

R. Raghavan and W.B. Thompson

Generalized Correlation Measures for Use in Signal and Image Processing .....	554
---	-----

V.N. Dvornychenko

A Simple Contour Matching Algorithm .....	562
---	-----

Y.H. Yang and T.W. Sze

An Algorithm for Scale Invariant Segment-Matching .....	565
---	-----

S. Sakane

**SESSION R: TEXTURE (R.M. Haralick, Chairperson)**

On the Correlation Structure of Random Field Models of Images and Textures .....	574
--	-----

R. Chellappa and R.L. Kashyap

Synthetic Generation and Estimation in Random Field Models of Images .....	577
--	-----

R. Chellappa and R.L. Kashyap

Textural Anisotropy Features for Texture Analysis .....	583
---	-----

D. Chetverikov

<b>A Simplified Procedure for Statistical Feature Extraction in Texture Processing .....</b>	<b>589</b>
D. Lu, J.T. Tou, and T. Gu	
<b>Texture Synthesis Using a Bidimensional Markov Model .....</b>	<b>593</b>
F. Schmitt and D. Massaloux	
<b>Markov Random Field Texture Models .....</b>	<b>597</b>
G.R. Cross and A.K. Jain	
<b>Texture Simulation Using a Best-Fit Model .....</b>	<b>603</b>
D.D. Garber and A.A. Sawchuk	
<b>Multiple-Level Representations for Texture Discrimination .....</b>	<b>609</b>
S.W. Zucker and K. Kant	
<b>LATE PAPERS</b>	
<b>Automatic Feature Extraction System Test Bed .....</b>	<b>615</b>
D.A. Bush	
<b>Panel on Map Data Processing .....</b>	<b>619</b>
H. Freeman	
<b>Author Index .....</b>	<b>623</b>

# **Session A: Classification**

L.N. Kanal  
University of Maryland

# A COMMITTEE MACHINE WITH LOWER COMMITTEES

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**ABSTRACT** A committee machine with several lower committees, which is called a two-level committee machine, is proposed to improve the pattern classification power of the usual committee machine, and the learning algorithm for it is described. The discriminant function realized by the two-level committee machine can be considered as the general piecewise linear discriminant function which includes Chang's definition [12]. The proposed algorithm is a kind of error-correction procedure, and the learning procedures of the usual committee machine and the perceptron are clearly explained as special cases of the proposed algorithm.

## I. INTRODUCTION

It is convenient to use the concept of the discriminant function (DF),  $f$ , to state the 2-class pattern classification problem in pattern recognition. If  $f$  is piecewise linear, it is called the piecewise linear discriminant function (PLDF). Although the usefulness of the PLDF has already been pointed out, and there has been much research on synthesizing it, satisfactory results have not yet been obtained, and the problem has rarely been treated in its general form.

Most research done so far relates to the nearest neighbor classifiers [1] [2], the committee machine [3] [4] [5] [6], or other types of networks of linear classifiers [7] [8] [9] [10] [11]. The DF's derived from those mentioned above are restricted or special PLDF's. Although Chang [12] has treated the PLDF in more general fashion, the analytical representation of the PLDF has not been presented and the synthesis procedure for it is rather heuristic. It is interesting from not only a practical but a theoretical point of view to investigate the PLDF in its general form.

In this paper, we are motivated by the committee machine, and aim to describe the PLDF in more general form. Thus, we propose a two-level committee machine (TLCM) [13]. The TLCM is a committee machine whose committee members are also committee machines. The TLCM defines a wider family of PLDF's which includes Chang's definition as a special case.

We present an analytical expression of the DF realized by the TLCM, and give a learning procedure for the TLCM. As results, we present an analytical expression of the general PLDF and a learning method to find a general PLDF from sample patterns.

## II. THE TWO-LEVEL COMMITTEE MACHINE

### 2.1 The committee machine

In what follows patterns are divided into two classes,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , and are  $n$ -tuples, i.e.

$$x = (x_1, \dots, x_n). \quad (1)$$

For notational simplicity the last or  $n$ -th component of each pattern is the constant 1.

The perceptron is a two-class classifier denoted by  $L(x)$  and defined by

$$L(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } w \cdot x > 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } w \cdot x \leq 0, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $w$ , called a weight vector, is in  $R^n$ , " $\cdot$ " means the inner product, and  $w \cdot x$  is the DF on which the perceptron makes the decision (classification). The components of  $x$  are called the inputs to the perceptron, and  $L(x)$  is called the response of the perceptron.

A more powerful classifier than a perceptron is obtained by combining several perceptrons called committee members and a vote-taking perceptron. The components of the pattern vector are the inputs to each committee member, and the responses of the committee members together with the constant one are the inputs to the vote-taking perceptron. The response of a committee is the response of its vote-taking perceptron, and the weight vector of the vote-taking perceptron determines what is called the logic of the committee.

### 2.2 The TLCM

A TLCM proposed in this paper is a committee machine in which each committee member is also a committee machine. That is, a TLCM consists of several committee machines as committee members and a vote-taking perceptron. Committee machines which constitute committee members are called lower committees whereas the committee machine which makes the final decision is called the upper committee. Inputs to the vote-taking perceptron of the upper committee are responses of lower committees (outputs of vote-taking perceptrons in lower committees).

In order to characterize a TLCM, several parameters are to be determined. These parameters are classified into two kinds, i.e. outer parameters and inner parameters. The number of lower committee members, the number of committee members of each lower committee, and logics of lower and upper committees are outer parameters. Weight vectors of committee members of each lower committee are inner parameters.

Outer parameters determine the form of the



DF realized whereas inner parameters determine the function of the machine as far as the functional form given by outer parameters. In most classifier design problems, it is assumed that outer parameters are known in advance, and the problem is to find inner parameters in such a way that the function of the machine works well.

### III. THE DISCRIMINANT FUNCTION OF THE TLDM

Let us consider a TLDM with  $J$  committee members. As was mentioned in the previous section, each member is a committee machine with respective logic. In these  $J$  committees, let the  $j$ -th committee be denoted by  $C(j)$ ,  $j=1, \dots, J$ , and let  $C(j)$  have  $K_j$  lower committee members.

Further let the weight vector of the  $k$ -th committee member of  $C(j)$  be

$$w_k^j = (w_{k1}^j, \dots, w_{kn}^j), \quad j=1, \dots, K_j, \quad (3)$$

and let  $v^j$  be the weight vector of the vote-taking perceptron of  $C(j)$ .  $v^j$  has  $K_j+1$  components, i.e.

$$v^j = (v_1^j, \dots, v_{K_j+1}^j), \quad (4)$$

the first  $K_j$  correspond to the responses from lower committee members in  $C(j)$  and the last to the input constant one.

Defining the threshold mapping  $\theta[\cdot]$  by

$$\theta[u] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u > 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } u \leq 0, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

then  $L(x)$  defined by (2) can be written

$$L(x) = \theta[w \cdot x]. \quad (6)$$

Therefore the weighted sum of inputs to the vote-taking perceptron in  $C(j)$  can be represented as

$$g_1^j(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K_j} v_k^j \theta[w_k^j \cdot x] + v_{K_j+1}^j, \quad (7)$$

and the response of  $C(j)$  is 1 if  $g_1^j(x) > 0$ , and -1 if  $g_1^j(x) \leq 0$ . That is,  $g_1^j(x)$  given by (7) is the DF realized by  $C(j)$ , which is a kind of PLDF.

Inputs to the vote-taking perceptron of the upper committee are responses of lower committees,  $\theta[g_1^j(x)]$ ,  $j=1, \dots, J$ . Let the logic of the upper committee be

$$u = (u_1, \dots, u_J, u_{J+1}), \quad (8)$$

where the first  $J$  correspond to the responses from committee members and the last to the input one. Then the weighted sum of inputs to the upper vote-taking perceptron can be represented by

$$g_1(x) = \sum_{j=1}^J u_j \theta[g_1^j(x)] + u_{J+1}, \quad (9)$$

which is the DF realized by the TLDM.

It is shown in [13] that the DF given by (9) can be considered as the general PLDF which includes Chang's definition.

As has been mentioned in Section II, parameters  $J$ ,  $K_j$ ,  $v^j$  and  $u$  in  $g_1(x)$  are outer parameters, and vectors  $w_k^j$  are inner parameters which are to be found by learning or other methods.

### IV. AN EASILY LEARNABLE FORM OF THE DF OF THE TLDM

Let us assume that the outer parameters are given and fixed. Under this circumstance we determine inner parameters by learning. Although the representation of the DF of the TLDM,  $g_1(x)$ , given

by (9), is easy to understand, it is not necessarily desirable to introduce the learning algorithm for obtaining inner parameters. Therefore we represent it in another form.

We start with representing inner parameters in compact form. We define following vectors with  $nK_j$ -dimensions.

$$P_j = (w_1^j, \dots, w_{K_j}^j), \quad j=1, \dots, J \quad (10)$$

$$X_j = (\underbrace{x, \dots, x}_{K_j}), \quad (11)$$

where  $P_j$  is the parameter vector and  $X_j$  is the augmented pattern vector with respect to the  $j$ -th lower committee member  $C(j)$ . We introduce the following functions  $t_k(X_j, P_j)$ ,  $j=1, \dots, K_j$  and a diagonal matrix  $T(X_j, P_j)$  for each  $j$ .

$$t_k(X_j, P_j) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \theta[w_k^j \cdot x] \theta[g_1^j(X_j, P_j)], \quad k=1, \dots, K_j \quad (12)$$

$$T(X_j, P_j) = \begin{pmatrix} t_1(X_j, P_j)E & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & t_{K_j}(X_j, P_j)E & \\ 0 & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}, \quad (13)$$

where  $g_1^j(X_j, P_j)$  in (12) is the expression defined by (7) but denoted in a manner which explicitly represents the parameters, and  $E$  in (13) denotes the unit matrix of order  $n$ . Hence  $T(X_j, P_j)$  is a diagonal matrix of order  $nK_j$ .

If we define a function

$$P_j T(X_j, P_j) X_j^t, \quad (14)$$

where  $t$  denotes the transposition, then we see that the function defined by (14) is the DF realized by  $C(j)$  [6].

In order to introduce a learnable representation of the DF of the TLDM, i.e. the general PLDF, we define the following  $n(K_1+K_2+\dots+K_J)$  dimensional vectors.

$$P = (P_1, \dots, P_J) \quad (15)$$

$$X = (X_1, \dots, X_J), \quad (16)$$

where  $P$  is the parameter vector and  $X$  is the augmented pattern vector with respect to the overall committee machine. Further we define functions

$$s^j(X, P) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \theta[P_j T(X_j, P_j) X_j^t] \theta[g_1^j(X, P)] \quad (17)$$

and a diagonal matrix of order  $n(K_1+\dots+K_J)$ ,

$$S(X, P) = \begin{pmatrix} s^1(X, P) T(X_1, P_1) & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & s^J(X, P) T(X_J, P_J) & \\ 0 & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}. \quad (18)$$

$g_1(X, P)$  in (17) is the expression defined in (9) but is denoted in a manner which explicitly represents the parameters, and  $T(X_j, P_j)$  in (18) is given by (13).

By using (15)-(18), we define the following function:

$$g(X, P) = PS(X, P)X^t. \quad (19)$$

Then we see that  $g(X, P)$  is the DF realized by the TLDM, i.e. the general PLDF [13]. Henceforth we will

discuss the learning algorithm based on  $g(X,P)$ .

Before going to the next section, some remarks will be given. Since  $\theta[cu] = \theta[u]$  for  $c > 0$ , it holds that

$$s^j(X,cP) = s^j(X,P) \quad (20)$$

and

$$g(X,cP) = cg(X,P), \quad (21)$$

that is,  $s^j(X,P)$  is a zero order homogeneous function and  $g(X,P)$  is a linear homogeneous function with respect to  $P$ . Further defining

$$\tilde{S}(X,P) = \begin{cases} S(X,P) \\ -S(X,P) \end{cases}$$

and

$$\tilde{g}(X,P) = P\tilde{S}(X,P)X^t, \quad (22)$$

then if  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  can be correctly classified by the TLCM, there exists a parameter vector which satisfies

$$\tilde{g}(X,P) > 0, \quad X \in C_1 \cup C_2. \quad (23)$$

#### V. A LEARNING ALGORITHM FOR THE TLCM

A learning algorithm of the TLCM is performed by feeding patterns in sequence as is the case for the perceptron. Let an infinite sequence of learning patterns be  $A$ , i.e.

$$A = X(1), X(2), \dots, X(r), \dots \quad (24)$$

The sequence  $A$  satisfies the same conditions as those of the perceptron.

Let us consider an algorithm based on a gradient method that seeks a minimum of a certain criterion function. The criterion function  $R(X,P)$  is chosen in such a way that it is minimum when  $\tilde{g}(X,P) > 0$ . The gradient descent procedure is then

$$P(r+1) = P(r) - a_r \nabla_P R|_{P(r), X(r)}, \quad (25)$$

where  $\nabla_P R$  is the gradient of  $R$  with respect to  $P$ ,  $P(r)$  is the value of  $P$  at the  $r$ -th iteration and  $a_r$  is a predetermined positive constant.

Let

$$R = \frac{1}{2} \{ |\tilde{g}(X,P)| - \tilde{g}(X,P) \} \quad (26)$$

as is the case for the perceptron, then (25) can be rewritten as follows.

$$P(r+1) = P(r) + \begin{cases} 0, & \tilde{g}(X,P) > 0 \\ a_r \nabla_P \tilde{g}|_{P(r), X(r)}, & \tilde{g}(X,P) \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

where  $\nabla_P \tilde{g}$  is the gradient of  $\tilde{g}(X,P)$  and  $\tilde{g}(r)$  stands for  $\tilde{g}(X(r), P(r))$ .  $\nabla_P \tilde{g}$  becomes,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_P \tilde{g} &= \nabla_P (P\tilde{S}(X,P)X^t) \\ &= (\tilde{S}(X,P)X^t)^t + P\nabla_P (\tilde{S}(X,P)X^t). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

However, taking into account (20) and the Appendix of [6], we see that the second term of the right side of (28) is zero,

$$P\nabla_P (\tilde{S}(X,P)X^t) = 0. \quad (29)$$

From (28) and (29), we have

$$\nabla_P \tilde{g} = (\tilde{S}(X,P)X^t)^t$$

and (27) becomes

$$P(r+1) = P(r) + \begin{cases} 0, & \tilde{g}(X,P) > 0 \\ -a_r (\tilde{S}(X(r), P(r))X(r)^t)^t, & \tilde{g}(X,P) \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

If we use other criterion functions, different but similar algorithms are obtained. For example, if we let

$$R = \frac{1}{8} [ |\tilde{g}(X,P)| - \tilde{g}(X,P) ]^2, \quad (31)$$

then we have an algorithm called the relaxation algorithm,

$$P(r+1) = P(r) + \begin{cases} 0, & \tilde{g}(X,P) > 0 \\ a_r (\tilde{S}(X(r), P(r))X(r)^t)^t |\tilde{g}(X,P)|, & \tilde{g}(X,P) \leq 0. \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

Another example of the criterion function is

$$R = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{X \in C_1 \cup C_2} \{ |\tilde{g}(X,P)| - \tilde{g}(X,P) \}. \quad (33)$$

The learning algorithm based on (33) is easily obtained by use of (33) in (25) but it is omitted.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

In order to improve the pattern classification power of the committee machine and to introduce an analytical expression of the general piecewise linear discriminant function, we have proposed the two-level committee machine. The two-level committee machine realizes the piecewise linear discriminant function in its general form. An analytical expression of the discriminant function of the two-level committee machine was presented, and a learning algorithm was given.

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## PROBABILISTIC CLUSTER LABELING OF IMAGERY DATA\*

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### ABSTRACT

In this paper, the authors condise the problem of obtaining the probabilities of class labels for the clusters using spectral and spatial information from a given set of labeled patterns and their neighbors. A relationship is developed between class and cluster conditional densities in terms of probabilities of class labels for the clusters. Fixed-point iteration schemes are developed for obtaining the optimal probabilities of class labels for the clusters. These schemes utilize spatial information and also the probabilities of label imperfections. Furthermore, experimental results from the processing of remotely sensed multispectral scanner imagery data are presented.

### INTRODUCTION

Recently, considerable interest has been shown in developing techniques for the classification of imagery data such as remote sensing data obtained using the multispectral scanner (MSS) on board the Landsat for inventorying natural resources, monitoring crop conditions, detecting mineral and oil deposits, etc. Usually, the inherent classes in the data are multimodal, and nonsupervised classification or clustering techniques<sup>1-3</sup> have been found to be effective<sup>4,5</sup> in the classification of imagery data. Clustering the data partitions the image into its inherent modes or clusters. Labeling the clusters is one of the crucial problems in the application of clustering techniques for the classification of imagery data.

Cluster labeling is similar to the problem of labeling the regions obtained by using segmentation algorithms in the development of scene understanding systems. The recent literature shows considerable interest in the use of relaxation labeling algorithms for labeling the segmented regions.<sup>6-8</sup> These algorithms use relational properties of the regions through compatibility coefficients. In cluster labeling, the relational properties of the clusters are either not available or not meaningful. For example, in aerospace agricultural imagery, the regions of interest are crops, nonagricultural areas, etc. These can be

anywhere in the image. Hence, it is not meaningful to define relational properties for the clusters.

Most of the imagery data contain much spatial information, and several researchers<sup>9-12</sup> have attempted to use spatial information in the classification of imagery data.

This paper documents an investigation of the problem of labeling the clusters using spectral and spatial information. It is assumed that the probability density functions and a priori probabilities of the clusters or modes are given. Let these respectively be  $p(X|\Omega = i)$  and  $\delta_i$ ;

$i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , where  $m$  is the number of modes or clusters. It is also assumed that a set of labeled patterns  $X_i(j)$  with labels  $\omega_i(j) = i$  and their neighboring patterns  $Y_i^k(j)$  are given ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, \ell$ ;  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N_i$ ; and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, C$ , where  $C$  is the number of classes).

In remote sensing, the labels for the patterns are provided by an analyst-interpreter (AI), who examines imagery films and uses other data such as historic information and crop calendar models. Very often the AI labels are imperfect. Recently, Chittineni<sup>13-15</sup> investigated techniques for the estimation of probabilities of label imperfections using imperfectly labeled and unlabeled patterns. It is assumed that the probabilities of label imperfections are available. Methods are developed in the paper for obtaining probabilities of class labels for the clusters using all the available information.

### A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLUSTER AND CLASS CONDITIONAL DENSITIES

In this section, a relationship is developed between cluster and class conditional densities. In general, the class conditional density functions are multimodal. Let  $C$  be the number of classes and  $m$  be the number of clusters. Let  $p(X|\omega = i)$  be the class conditional densities and  $p(X|\Omega = i)$  be the mode or cluster conditional densities. Let  $P(\omega = i)$  and  $P(\Omega = i)$  be the a priori probability of class  $i$  and the a priori probability of cluster  $i$ , respectively. The mixture density  $p(X)$  can be written in terms of class conditional densities as follows.

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$$p(X) = \sum_{i=1}^C P(\omega = i) p(X|\omega = i) \quad (1)$$

The mixture density  $p(X)$  can also be written in terms of mode conditional densities as

$$\begin{aligned} p(X) &= \sum_{\ell=1}^m P(\Omega = \ell) p(X|\Omega = \ell) \\ &= \sum_{\ell=1}^m p(X|\Omega = \ell) \sum_{i=1}^C P(\Omega = \ell, \omega = i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^C P(\omega = i) \sum_{\ell=1}^m P(\Omega = \ell|\omega = i) p(X|\Omega = \ell) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The following assumption is made from comparing equations (1) and (2).

$$p(X|\omega = i) = \sum_{\ell=1}^m P(\Omega = \ell|\omega = i) p(X|\Omega = \ell) \quad (3)$$

Equation (3) can be rewritten as

$$p(\omega = i|X) = \sum_{\ell=1}^m \alpha_{\ell i} p(\Omega = \ell|X) \quad (4)$$

where  $\alpha_{\ell i} = P(\omega = i|\Omega = \ell)$  and is the probability that the label of mode  $\ell$  is class  $i$ . The probabilities  $\alpha_{\ell i}$  satisfy the constraints given in equation (5).

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{\ell i} > 0; \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, C \text{ and } \ell = 1, 2, \dots, m \\ \sum_{i=1}^C \alpha_{\ell i} = 1; \quad \ell = 1, 2, \dots, m \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Equation (3) provides a relationship between class and cluster conditional densities in terms of probabilities of class labels for the clusters.

#### MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD PROBABILISTIC CLUSTER LABELING

This section concerns the problem of obtaining the probabilities  $\alpha_{\ell i}$  (the probabilities of class labels for the clusters). It is assumed that we are given a set of labeled patterns  $X_i(j)$  with class labels  $\omega_i(j) = i$ ;  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N_i$ , and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, C$ . It is also assumed that the a priori probabilities of the modes or clusters and mode conditional densities are given. Let  $\delta_i$  and  $p(X|\Omega = i)$  be the mode a priori probabilities and mode conditional densities, respectively. The criterion used in obtaining the probabilistic description of class labels for the clusters is the likelihood function. The likelihood of an occurrence of patterns  $X_i(j)$  with their labels  $\omega_i(j) = i$  is given by

$$L_1 = \prod_{i=1}^C \prod_{j=1}^{N_i} p[X_i(j), \omega_i(j) = i] \quad (6)$$

Since  $\prod_{i=1}^C \prod_{j=1}^{N_i} p[X_i(j)]$  is independent of  $\omega_i(j)$ , for mathematical simplicity, dividing the above equation by it yields

$$L_1 = \prod_{i=1}^C \prod_{j=1}^{N_i} \frac{p[X_i(j), \omega_i(j) = i]}{p[X_i(j)]} \quad (7)$$

Noting that the logarithm is a monotonic function of its argument and taking the logarithm of  $L_1$  of equation (7) and using equation (4) yield the following.

$$L = \log(L_1) = \sum_{i=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^{N_i} \log \left\{ \sum_{\ell=1}^m \alpha_{\ell i} p[\Omega = \ell|X_i(j)] \right\} \quad (8)$$

The probabilities  $\alpha_{\ell i}$  satisfy the constraints given in equation (5). Closed-form solutions for  $\alpha_{\ell i}$  by maximizing  $L$  of equation (8), subject to the constraints of equation (5), seem to be difficult to obtain. The probabilities  $\alpha_{\ell i}$  can easily be obtained using optimization techniques such as the Davidon-Fletcher-Powell procedure.<sup>16-18</sup>

The following fixed-point iteration equation (similar to maximum likelihood equations in parametric clustering<sup>3</sup>) for the solution of the above optimization problem can easily be obtained by introducing Lagrangian multipliers. That is,

$$\alpha_{\ell i} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{N_i} d_{\ell i j}}{\sum_{i=1}^C \sum_{j=1}^{N_i} d_{\ell i j}} \quad (9)$$

where

$$d_{\ell i j} = \frac{\alpha_{\ell i} p[\Omega = \ell|X_i(j)]}{\sum_{s=1}^m \alpha_{s i} p[\Omega = s|X_i(j)]} \quad (10)$$

However, closed-form solutions for  $\alpha_{\ell i}$  can be obtained with the criterion as the maximization of a lower bound on  $L$ , and they are given in the following discussion.

$$\alpha_{\ell i} = \frac{N_i e_{i \ell}}{\sum_{r=1}^C N_r e_{r \ell}} \quad (11)$$

where

$$e_{i \ell} = \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{j=1}^{N_i} p[\Omega = \ell|X_i(j)] \quad (12)$$

This solution simply states that the probability of the  $i$ th class label for a given cluster  $\ell$  is the ratio of the sum of the a posteriori probabilities of cluster  $\ell$ , given the labeled patterns from class  $i$ , to the sum over all classes of the sum of a posteriori probabilities of cluster  $\ell$ , given the labeled patterns from each class. Having obtained  $\alpha_{\ell i}$ ,  $q_i$  (the proportion of class  $i$ ) can be estimated as follows.